

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 008922

1. FOLLOWING CLEARED GUIDANCE AMENDS EARLIER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (REFTEL) AND MAY BE DRAWN UPON AS NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC PRESS INQUIRY. F.Y.I. SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 15, DAY EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST (STATE 091369):

QUOTE

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON U.S. ARMS ASSISTANCE TO YUGO-  
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SLAVIA? ARE THERE NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

A: THIS QUESTION HAS COME UP BEFORE. THERE ARE NO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE-TO YUGOSLAVIA. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO CONSIDER YUGOSLAV REQUESTS TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE PRESIDENT WAS REFLECTING THIS FACT WHEN HE NOTED LAST YEAR WHILE VISITING BELGRADE THAT HE AND PRESIDENT TITO HAD DISCUSSED OUR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY RELATIONS. WE DID, IN FACT, PROVIDE YUGOSLAVIA WITH

ABOUT \$700 MILLION IN GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE 1950'S. INCLUDED WERE JET FIGHTERS, ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES. SINCE 1961, WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS ALLOWED THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT TO EXPIRE, YUGOSLAVIA HAS PURCHASED AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT \$200 THOUSAND WORTH OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT ANNUALLY UNDER FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROCEDURES, AND ABOUT \$250 THOUSAND PER YEAR ON A PURELY COMMERCIAL BASIS. THIS HAS INCLUDED MOSTLY REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR U.S. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED EARLIER.

--- THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV REQUESTS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS FOR OUR POSITION ON THE SALE OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SOME OF THESE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION HAVE BEEN ANSWERED AND SOME ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE INFORMED THE YUGOSLAVS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL THEM A NUMBER OF MILITARY ITEMS, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS, NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND RADAR SYSTEMS.

Q: WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO THE YUGOSLAVS WISH TO PURCHASE? DO THEIR REQUESTS INCLUDE SOPHISTICATED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS SUCH AS THE TOW MISSILE? WHAT IS THE \$1.5 MILLION FIGURE FOR CASH SALES MENTIONED IN THE LATEST PRESS STORIES?

A: I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS OF WHAT THE YUGOSLAVS WANT TO PURCHASE, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR SELLING THE TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. THERE IS IN FACT NO CURRENT INDICATION THAT THE YUGOSLAVS INTEND TO PLACE ORDERS FOR TOW. THE 1 1/2 MILLION-DOLLAR SECURITY ASSISTANCE

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FIGURE FOR CASH SALES TO YUGOSLAVIA IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR IS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, NO MORE THAN AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT SALES MIGHT BE SHOULD THE YUGOSLAVS DECIDE TO ORDER EQUIPMENT THEY HAVE SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WILL PLACE ANY SIGNIFICANT ORDERS FOR U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE OF SELLING MILITARY EQUIP-

MENT TO YUGOSLAVIA? IS IT DESIGNED TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE  
ATTACK FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN CASE OF TITO'S DEATH? ARE  
WE TRYING TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY?

A: WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGO-  
SLAVIA NOW, AS IN THE PAST, SO THAT IT CAN BE IN THE BEST  
POSITION TO DEFEND ITS INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL IN-  
TEGRITY.

Q: ARE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS ON THIS CONTINUING?

A: WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER REQUESTS ON  
THE PART OF THE YUGOSLAVS FOR INFORMATION ON VARIOUS EQUIP-  
MENT ITEMS AND THAT OUR NORMAL DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE.  
END QUOTE ROBINSON

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